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Vacancy: PhD Fellowship
Closing Date: 17th March 2026 at 23:59 East Africa Time (EAT)

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About the Position

One 3-year PhD fellowship (social science) is available as part of the project "Pandemic Funds, Public Goods for Health, and the Future of Global Health Financing (PANDFUND)" funded by the Research Council of Norway. The project is led by the University of Oslo, Norway in collaboration with the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in Kenya, Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, Peace Research Institute Oslo, and O.P Jindal Global University in India.

The project examines how new regional financing initiatives for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) – including the Pandemic Fund, the Africa Public Health Foundation (APHF), and the Africa Epidemics Fund (AfEF) - align with governance, funding, and policy needs of African countries, and how they advance pandemic PPR as a global public good. The PhD candidate will conduct research in Ethiopia.

The position is full time (100%) for three years and the PhD candidate will be based at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, with five-months stay at the University of Oslo, Norway.

We are looking for highly motivated candidates with an interest in social science research and working in a collaborative research environment. It is expected that the candidate will contribute to the academic and research standards of the respective Departments and adhere to high standards of collegiality.

Responsibilities
  i.   Completing PhD requirements at Addis Ababa University, including publishing two journal articles in reputable Journals and successfully defending doctoral thesis.
  ii.   Conduct ethnographic and policy research and qualitative data analysis aligned with the project objectives.
  iii. Submit a doctoral thesis at Addis Ababa University within 3 years of admission.
  iv.   Participate in activities of the respective host departments in the universities such as seminars and other relevant forums.
  v.   Work closely with the respective PIs in the project.
  vi.   Present research findings at national, regional, and international academic and policy forums.
  vii. Contribute to project reports, dissemination outputs (policy briefs, blog posts, podcasts), and public engagement activities.

Key Requirements

The successful candidates must have:
    i.   Master's degree (minimum grade B or equivalent) in a relevant discipline within the social sciences or humanities (Social/Medical anthropology, Development Studies, or related disciplines).
    ii.   Documented experience with qualitative research methodologies.
    iii.   Excellent communication skills, including oral and written proficiency in English.
    iv.   Demonstrated ability to complete writing projects within deadlines.
    v.   Proven independent research experience in East Africa.
    vi.   Ability to work proactively and independently, while also contributing to an interdisciplinary team and across institutions.
    vii.   Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, Outlook, Word, PowerPoint, OneDrive) and, preferably, NVivo or other qualitative data analysis software.
    viii.   Strong motivation and suitability for doctoral research.

In these roles, it is an advantage if you have:

    i.   Good understanding of global health governance and international development policy.
    ii.   Evidence of (co-)authorship of peer-reviewed publication(s).
    iii.   Experience working with interdisciplinary teams and across institutions.
    iv.   Oral and written proficiency in Amharic or Kiswahili.

Candidates who have completed their first year of PhD education within social sciences are encouraged to apply.

What we offer:

    i.   Full-time (100%) three-year fellowship.
    ii.   Monthly salary and PhD scholarship including tuition fee.
    iii.   Funding for research activities, conferences, dissemination, books, and equipment.
    iv.   Office space and access to facilities at host institutions.
    v.   Travel expenses and living allowance for five months (PhD) stay in Oslo, Norway and for international conferences, with PI approval.
    vi.   Supervision by an experienced international research team in Ethiopia and Norway.
    vii.   Participation in a wider project team including researchers from Kenya, Norway, Ethiopia and India.

How to apply

The application and documentation must be in English, and must include:

    i.   Cover letter (max. 1 page) outlining motivation, research interests, and relevant experience.
    ii.   Curriculum Vitae (max. 2 pages), including education, positions, and publications. CVs that exceed 2 pages will not be considered.
    iii.   Project description (max. 5 pages) including research objectives, conceptual and methodological approach, ethical considerations, expected outputs, timeline and

references. The project proposal should clearly specify how the project contributes to PANFUND's overall goal. Any use of AI chatbots must be declared.

iv. Certified copies of academic certificates and transcripts.
v. Writing sample (e.g. Master's thesis, academic publication, or other academic work).
vi. Documentation of English proficiency.
vii. Contact details of two academic referees familiar with the applicant's work.

Applications with the required attachments must be submitted to Dr Meron Zeleke (meron.zeleke@aau.edu.et) and Dr Jacinta Victoria S. Muinde (j.v.s.muinde@medisin.uio.no). Applications without sufficient documentation or submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

For questions about the position, please contact Dr Jacinta Victoria S. Muinde, Associate Professor and Project Leader, University of Oslo (j.v.s.muinde@medisin.uio.no) and Dr Meron Zeleke (meron.zeleke@aau.edu.et), Associate Professor, Addis Ababa University.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and will be invited to an online interview.